

kind of solid footing it takes to continue their education. Research shows that students who transfer from a two-year institution to a four-year college or university are often more successful than those who start at a four-year institution.

As a society we need to applaud the accomplishments of two-year college graduates and encourage baccalaureate institutions to accept transfer students who have proved they can be successful students.

In the long run, junior and community colleges not only help students gain confidence in their ability to learn, but they also provide them a foundation for achieving better jobs.

The potential ripple effect on the economy is obvious. As the world becomes flatter and we're faced with new global competition, we must redouble our efforts to ensure that future generations of Americans enjoy a standard of living that matches or surpasses our own.

A strong system of junior and community colleges with stepped-up support—financial or otherwise—from business leaders, legislators, and educators can go a long way toward making that goal achievable.

If junior and community colleges win, we all win.

TRIBUTE TO DEMARIS MARSH

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of DeMaris Marsh of Brandon, Florida, a tireless advocate for America's seniors. Dee's passing last week is a tremendous loss to our community.

Dee devoted countless hours to helping improve the lives of seniors. She was an extremely dedicated volunteer for the AARP, serving the organization and its members in numerous ways. She volunteered as State Director of the AARP in Arkansas and served on the AARP National Legislative Council and the Florida State AARP Legislative Council.

As a Member of Congress, Dee was an invaluable resource to me because she was a strong voice for Florida's seniors. As a member of my Long Term Care Advisory Board, Dee provided important insight into many of the issues and federal programs affecting seniors. I know she advised numerous other legislative and political officials as well.

Dee was also committed to providing direct assistance to her fellow seniors. She taught AARP Driver Safety courses and volunteered as an AARP Tax-Aide counselor, helping seniors complete their federal tax forms. Jeff Johnson, AARP Florida's Grassroots and Community Outreach Manager said it best, "Dee Marsh was a wonderful human being, an impassioned advocate for Floridians 50 and older, and a devoted volunteer for AARP. Through her many years of advocacy efforts, she was a part of helping improve the lives of millions of older Americans. We at AARP Florida will miss her kind heart, sharp mind and gracious Southern charm."

I too will miss Dee and her devotion to helping legislators, like me, better serve the needs of our community. On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Dee's family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on December 5 and 6, 2006, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 524, 525, 526 and 527. The votes I missed included a motion to suspend the rules and agree to as amended, H. Res. 1070; a motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 1176; a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6099; and a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1082.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 524 and 527, and "nay" on rollcall votes 525 and 526.

CONGRATULATING HASBROUCK HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL ON RECEIVING A PACEMAKER AWARD

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the dedicated students and faculty at Hasbrouck Heights High School who have made The Pilot's Log an award-winning and exemplary newspaper year after year.

This November, students earned top honors from the National Scholastic Press Association by capturing a Pacemaker Award—the third in four years. Widely considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism, this award is a testament to the outstanding writing, photography, layout, and management skills that students learn at Hasbrouck Heights High School. Journalism is a difficult profession and learning to meet deadlines and juggle priorities is challenging at any age.

I am extremely proud of the 2006 Pilot's Log editorial staff: Matthew Connors, Wade Friedel, Harvir Kaur, Brielle Marino, Joseph Marino, Kaitlin Olcott, Russell Piazza, Prachi Prachi, Nishit Raval, Robert Spindler, Caitlyn J. Walsh, and Nicole Weingartner. I also applaud their teachers and families, who encouraged and helped them along the way. Pilot's Log advisers Lora Gefic and Gary Pankiewicz deserve special recognition for the quality of their teaching.

It is an honor to represent so many individuals dedicated to the values and ideals of journalism. I am especially pleased that a Pacemaker Award has gone to a student newspaper written, printed, and distributed in my own Congressional District. I again offer my congratulations to the award-winning students and teachers at Hasbrouck Heights High School for the consistent, first-rate reporting in The Pilot's Log. Keep up the good work!

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor MIKE OXLEY, a man who will be greatly missed in this House. Not only does he have more friends in this chamber than nearly anyone else, he has compiled one of the most distinguished legislative records in this body.

I have had the privilege of knowing MIKE for more than thirty years going back to when we served together in the Ohio Legislature and he has been a good friend to have over that entire period of time.

In Congress, MIKE has not only been involved in the issues of the day, he has been a good athlete and has led his colleagues in pursuing healthful activities. He was Chairman of the Gym Committee. In College, we used to think that anyone who became a three letter man was something special. MIKE has been a three letter man here and much more. He was the manager of the Republican Congressional Baseball, Basketball and Golf teams and compiled a great record of victories.

His record of legislative accomplishments is a long one. With a great ability to reach across the aisle, MIKE OXLEY helped calm the financial markets during a period of great turmoil. Sarbanes-Oxley was the most sweeping reform to our securities laws in 70 years and helped bring an era of corporate scandal to an end. Other successes during MIKE's tenure at the helm of the Financial Services Committee include deposit insurance reform, regulatory relief for banks and thrifts, tireless work on reforms for the government sponsored enterprises, and tremendous work on providing opportunities for increased homeownership.

As MIKE OXLEY leaves to enter another phase of his life, we wish both he and his wonderful wife Pat the very best.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON SCHOOL

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to congratulate the Lyndon Baines Johnson Public School 151K, located in Brooklyn, New York, on its centennial anniversary. Since its inception, Lyndon Baines Johnson School has maintained a standard of academic excellence, thereby enriching the lives of elementary schoolchildren throughout Bushwick.

Originally known as Public School 151K, Lyndon Baines Johnson School exemplifies Bushwick's historical dedication to establishing a community-oriented school system. Its name honors the significant achievements of President Lyndon Baines Johnson—from fighting poverty and promoting urban renewal to investing in education and social programs. It is ultimately through upholding the legacy of its

namesake that this institution has fostered the personal progress of countless students and, moreover, the growth of a more vibrant place to live, work, and play.

Lyndon Baines Johnson School is a community public school with a dedicated staff that continues to nurture the intellectual development of hundreds of students. Its partnerships with the private and public sectors have strengthened this institution's programs thereby enabling comprehensive support services, encouraging parent participation, and connecting families. Additionally, through the exceptional leadership of Principal Jeanette Sosa and Assistant Principal Stuart Spector, this award-winning school has effectively advanced a culture of civic, socially-minded students devoted to the interests of Bushwick—and our Nation.

This unwavering commitment to advocacy and respect for individuals has been the cornerstone of this remarkable learning institution throughout its 100-year existence. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students, faculty, and parents of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Public School 151K on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING ALABAMA STATE
SENATOR GARY TANNER FOR
HIS DEDICATED, FAITHFUL PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize Alabama State Senator Gary Tanner for his dedicated, faithful public service to the citizens of Mobile County.

Senator Tanner is a distinguished member of the Mobile, Alabama, community and a tremendous advocate for all of south Alabama. He began his public service career as a Mobile County Commissioner in 1992 and was elected to the Alabama State Senate in 2002.

During his career in the Alabama State Legislature, Senator Tanner worked tirelessly on behalf of south Alabama and served as chairperson of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Of particular significance, Gary was awarded the Tillman's Corner Citizen of the Year award in 1980 by the Tillman's Corner Area Chamber of Commerce. In 1989, he was selected as Business Associate of the Year by the Mobile Bay Chapter of the American Business Women's Association. He has also received the Able Helmsman Award in 2000 by the Mobile Labor Council, the State Employee's Rusty Hook Award in 2002, and the Mobile Democratic Executive Committee's Award of Distinction in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, the faithful service of outstanding Americans like Gary Tanner has aided in an immeasurable way to the well being of our community. I would like to offer my congratulations for his many personal and professional achievements. I know his daughters, Bonita Tanner and Dawn Tanner-Smith; his grandchildren, Benjamin, Sarah, Will, and Drew; and his other family and many friends join with me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts on

behalf of the people of Mobile and the entire State of Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I have the honor to recognize a fellow colleague from the Great State of Ohio, Chairman MICHAEL OXLEY. Chairman OXLEY has served with distinction in this House for 25 years and is retiring at the end of the 109th Congress.

Many people know Chairman OXLEY either from his work on the Financial Services Committee, his tireless work for the constituents of the Fourth District of Ohio, or his years of participation as a player and manager of the Republican Baseball Team. Chairman OXLEY is also a tireless advocate of the military and especially the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center—Lima, formerly known as the Lima Army Tank Plant.

The Joint Systems Manufacturing Center—Lima traces its history back to WWII when it prepared and processed more than 100,000 combat vehicles. The plant today is the sole producer of the M-1 Abrams tank.

Chairman OXLEY worked with the Department of Defense over the years to encourage the utilization of the workforce and available space at the facility. Through his efforts, the plant has grown beyond its original mission, providing a wide variety of cutting-edge military vehicles for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

Most recently, Rep. OXLEY was successful in working with Task Force LIMA during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure to ensure the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center remained a strong and continued asset for the Nation, the State of Ohio and the greater Lima community. Chairman OXLEY was also able to restore funding for the modernization of the M-1 tank, further ensuring our men and women in uniform remain the best equipped fighting force in the world.

Chairman OXLEY is a distinguished member of the Ohio Delegation and of this House. He has made his mark on this Nation not only through his ardent support of the financial service industry, but also his unwavering support of the military. His tireless support of the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center—Lima has placed it in a strong position for the future. As Chairman OXLEY sometimes quotes former President Reagan's farewell address, "My friends, we did it. We weren't just marking time. We made a difference." For 25 years, Chairman OXLEY has made a difference not only for Ohioans but for all Americans. The House of Representatives has benefited from his ideas and leadership.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE GREG BRASHEAR

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and all of my colleagues to pause for a moment to listen to a story about an everyday American who died before we could thank him for his selfless service to others.

Police homicide detective Greg Brashear, is like so many who walk among us each day. They quietly protect and defend us and are rarely noticed or thanked before they are gone.

Detective Greg Brashear was such a man. Just months ago, he lost his life. But his legacy lives. His story continues to touch others as it is spread by those who only learned of it while he lay in a hospital fighting for his life.

Baltimore, Maryland Police Department Homicide Detective Greg Brashear had a full life of his own. Last January, off-duty and en route to a celebration with a loved one, he stopped on the side of a highway to help a woman with a flat tire.

He was struck by another car while aiding a woman he'd never met. Detective Brashear spent the next 7 months hospitalized in intensive care trying to recover and return to those he loved.

He never left the hospital. But while he was there . . . his name, and the kind of selfless man he was, became known to hundreds and thousands more, as his struggle began to touch more lives each day, moving beyond the hospital walls—even beyond state lines.

Greg had not followed his father and brother into their family's law practice in Texas. He chose the less compensated and lower profile path of fighting for those who could not defend themselves when he became a detective in the Violent Crime Child Abuse Section of Houston's Police Department.

He moved to the Baltimore Police force saying he wanted to continue to "do something that mattered; to help people by keeping the world safer", which is what he did for the last 26 years until the day he noticed one more person in need of his help—someone stopped on the side of the highway hoping someone would notice her despair.

And that's why we stop what we're doing right now and reflect on Detective Greg Brashear. Because he and thousands of other Americans like him, notice every day the people around them who are wounded or helpless. They do not turn their backs on them. And they do not ask for pats on their own backs.

Today, may we give back to Detective Brashear what he did not ask for or get in life: his country's recognition of his service, of his humility, and his invaluable role in our society. We give him our deepest thanks.

I ask you to join me in offering that same recognition to all the "Greg Brashears" who daily walk unheralded among us. We do not know your names, but we know you are there.

If no one has thanked you, if no one has noticed the depth of your personal commitment or sacrifice—consider it noticed today. And consider that our thanks to you, and to Greg, will never be enough for all you have done.